for the period 1993 to 1997 are given in the annexure. *[See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 1]

(c) and (d) The scientists of ICAR (Indian Council of Agriculture Research) system including Agriculture Universities are continuously working to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity of foodgrains in the country. However, raising productivity is a continuous effort and it is not possible to set any time limit to raise productivity levels of agricultural crops in India to the levels obtaining in developed countries of the world because actual realisation of potential productivity is largely dependent on agro-climatic factors, farm size, timely use of high quality inputs, besides development and adoption of package of improved practices. It may also be added that to increase production and productivity of agriculture crops, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/ Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System area, National Pulses Development Project, Intensive Cotton Development Programme and Sustainable Development of Sugracane Based Cropping System. Under these programmes/projects, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstration on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology.

Recruitment of Employees under Reserved Category

*17. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer

to Unstarred Question 2418 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23 December, 1999 and state:

(a) how many contract employees have been considered and appointed on regular basis during the last three years against Special Recruitment Drive (SRD) reported to have been published in Newspapers during 1997—99;

(b) whether it is a fact that 84 employees were recruited on contract basis in reserved categories; and

(c) if so, the reasons for issue of fresh SRDs for appointment when candidates under reserved category are already working since 1993 onwards?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No contract employee has been appointed on regular basis by Engineers India Limited (EIL) during the last 3 years against Special Recruitment Drives (SRDs) published in the newspapers during 1997—99.

(b) and (c) 66 contract employees in reserved categories were recruited on contract basis during the said three years. Fresh SRDs were issued to recruit reserved category candidates in order to fill up the backlog and shortfall of reserved vacancies.